FOOTNOTES
FOR CHAPTER III

-THE METATRON:

SUPPOSEDLY THE HIGHEST OF ARCHANGEL, THE METATRON (AKA PRINCE OF COUNTENANCE) CLAIMS HIMSELF A CELESTIAL SCRIBE, ONE WHO KEEPS RECORDS AND OFTEN PLAYS THE ROLE OF HEAVENLY INTERLOCUTOR, CHARGED WITH DELIVERING KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE DEEMED WORTHY.

DESPITE COMMON BELIEFS, THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A BEING WAS NEVER ACTUALLY MENTIONED ANYWHERE IN THE BIBLE, BUT RATHER IN SOME MYSTICAL TEXTS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES, AS WELL AS VARIOUS OCCULT BOOKS AND RITUALS.

MANY WITHIN THE CLERGY AGREE THAT METATRON PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN EXISTS. IN FACT, SOME OF THE LEGENDS CONCERNING HIM ARE DUBIOUS AND DECIDEDLY UNBIBLICAL.

NAMELY BECAUSE THERE IS ONLY ONE KNOWN MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT AN ANGEL.

-THE GREAT FAMINE OF 1315:

FOLLOWING THE UNUSUALLY AWFUL WEATHER IN EUROPE DURING THE SPRING OF 1315, WHICH MADE PLOWING THE FIELDS IMPOSSIBLE, HEAVY RAINS BEGAN ROTTING SOME OF THE SEED GRAIN LONG BEFORE IT COULD EVEN GERMINATE. THE HARVEST BECAME FAR SMALLER THAN USUAL, AND THE FOOD RESERVES OF COUNTLESS FAMILIES WERE QUICKLY DEPLETED.

THIS WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF LARGE-SCALE CRISES THAT STRUCK EUROPE EARLY IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

BY THE SPRING OF 1317, ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY WERE SUFFERING.

DRAFT ANIMALS WERE SLAUGHTERED, SEED GRAIN WAS EATEN, INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN WERE ABANDONED.

MANY OF THE ELDERLY VOLUNTARILY STARVED THEMSELVES SO THAT THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY MIGHT LIVE TO WORK THE FIELDS AGAIN, AND THERE WERE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF CANNIBALISM...
THOSE WERE LATER CLAIMED BY MOST TO BE NOTHING BUT RUMORS AND LARGELY IGNORED.

-THE BLACK DEATH:

EASILY ONE OF THE DEADLIEST PANDEMICS IN RECORDED HISTORY, THE **BLACK DEATH**, OR **BUBONIC PLAGUE**, WAS TRANSMITTED PRIMARILY BY FLEAS AND RODENTS.

THE STOMACHS OF THE FLEAS WERE INFECTED WITH BACTERIA KNOWN AS "YERSINIA PESTIS". THE FLEAS INFECTED RODENTS, WHICH THEN SPREAD THE DISEASE TO OTHER RODENTS, FROM WHICH OTHER FLEAS WERE INFECTED, AND SO ON.

AS THEIR HOSTS DIED OUT, THE FLEAS MIGRATED TO THE BODIES OF HUMANS AND INFECTED THEM IN THE SAME FASHION, SPREADING THE PLAGUE.

FROM ITALY, THE DISEASE SPREAD NORTHWEST ACROSS EUROPE, STRIKING SPAIN, PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND ENGLAND BY JUNE 1348.

THERE ARE NO EXACT FIGURES FOR THE DEATH TOLL, BUT NORWEGIAN HISTORIAN OLE J. BENEDICTOW SUGGESTED A DEATH RATE OF 60% IN EUROPE ALONE.

THE PLAGUE WOULD RETURN MANY TIMES ACROSS THE CENTURIES, EVENTUALLY REACHING NORTH AMERICA IN THE EARLY 1900S.

-THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR:

THE NAME "HUNDRED YEARS' WAR" HAS BEEN USED BY HISTORIANS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY TO DESCRIBE THE REMARKABLY LONG CONFLICT THAT PITTED THE KINGS AND KINGDOMS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND AGAINST EACH OTHER FROM 1337 TO 1453.

WITH MORE THAN A DOZEN BELLIGERENT NATIONS AND OVER FIFTY DEADLY BATTLES, (THE DEADLIEST OF WHICH WAS FOUGHT NEAR VERNEUIL IN AUGUST 1424), THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR HAD A DEATH TOLL OF NEARLY FOUR MILLIONS SOULS.

AFTER THE FACTS, IT WAS ACTUALLY CONSIDERED A MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN EUROPE.

SADLY, THE RIVALRY PERSISTED, AND THE CONFLIT EVENTUALLY BEGAN ANEW OVER THE 18TH CENTURY, LATER BAPTIZED THE SECOND HUNDRED YEARS WAR.

OVERALL DURING THE 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES, THESE HORRIFIC EVENTS TOOK THEIR TOLL ON EUROPE: FAMINE, DISEASE AND WAR BROUGHT DEATH AND DEVASTATION IN MANY FORMS. MANY GOD-FEARING PEOPLE BELIEVED THE END OF THE WORLD HAD ARRIVED, AND THESE EVENTS SIGNALED THE ARRIVAL OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE.

AS IT TURNED OUT, THE HORSEMEN HAD BEEN THERE LONG BEFORE, BUT THESE EVENTS DID HAVE SOME GRAVE CONSEQUENCES.

THEY BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER